AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method that is suitable for use in connection with a multi-protocol communications analyzer, and the method comprising:

identifying ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available;

using at least one of any available ports to at least partially define a domain; and

configuring at least one port of any domain that was defined in connection with an available port,

wherein the domain is defined such that ports included in the domain appear to share, from a first user perspective, a trigger line and/or a common clock.

2. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the method is performed by way of a graphical user interface.

3. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the domain, if any domain was defined, comprises one of: a modified version of a previously existing domain; a new domain.

4. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

5. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 4, wherein modifying any domain that was at least partially defined in connection with an available port comprises changing the number of ports associated with the domain.

6. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning the ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

7. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning availability of the ports of the multi-protocol communications analyzer.

8. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning a domain.

9. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying information concerning port parameters.

10. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving one of: a domain creation request; a domain modification request.

11. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising receiving and displaying the name of the domain that is the subject of the received request.

12. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving port selection input if a port has been determined to be available.

13. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving port configuration input if a domain has been at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

14. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising displaying port configuration information if a domain has been at least partially defined in connection with an available port.

15-32. **(Cancelled)**

33. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available includes determining whether the one or more identified ports are reserved for use by a second user.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available includes determining whether the one or more identified ports are in an error state.

35. **(Previously Presented)** A method for defining a domain in a multi-protocol communications analyzer, and the method comprising:

identifying ports of link analyzers in the multi-protocol communications analyzer;

determining whether one or more of the identified ports are available;

using at least one of any available ports to at least partially define a domain; and

configuring at least one port of any domain that was defined in connection with an available port,

wherein a first one of the link analyzers in the multi-protocol communications analyzer is configured for use with a data stream corresponding to a first communication protocol and a second one of the link analyzers is configured for use with a data stream corresponding to a second communication protocol.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the first link analyzer is configured to propagate a trigger and/or clock signal that is received by the first link analyzer to the second link analyzer.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 36, wherein the first link analyzer is further configured to propagate the trigger and/or clock signal to a third one of the link analyzers.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the first, second, and third link analyzers are arranged such that the trigger and/or clock signal is propagated serially to the second and third link analyzers.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the first, second, and third link analyzers are arranged such that the trigger and/or clock signal is propagated in parallel to the second and third link analyzers.

40. **(New)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one of any available ports used to at least partially define the domain includes a port pair that captures data transmitted on a bi-directional communications link in a communications system.

41. **(New)** The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the at least one of the first and second link analyzers is interchangeable with a link analyzer configured for use with a data stream corresponding to a third communication protocol.